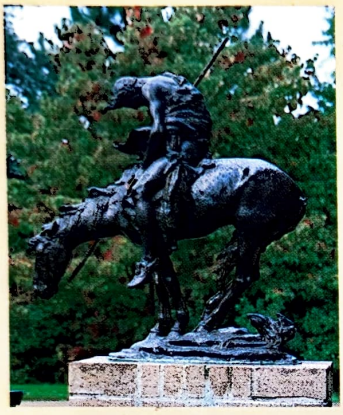
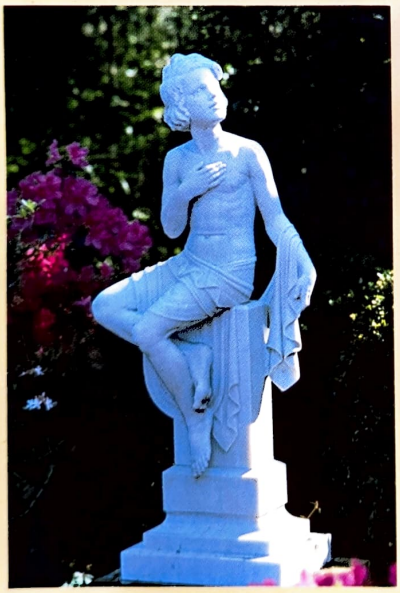
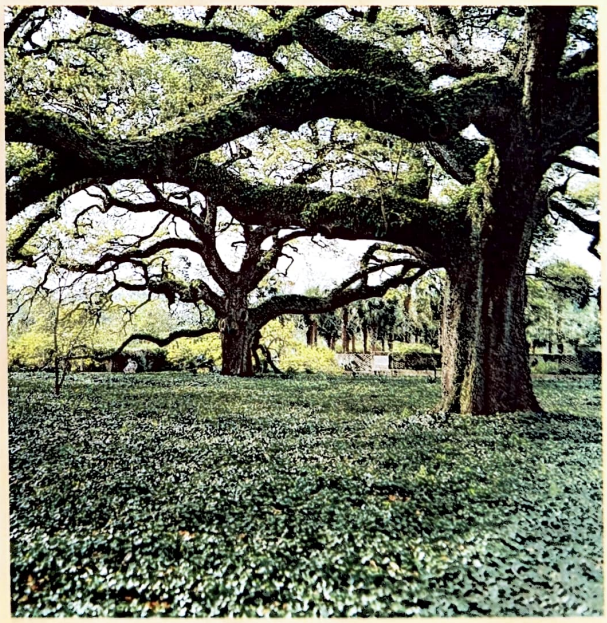
BROOKGREEN GARDENS







Before the Gardens

The land where Brookgreen Gardens was established has a significance of its own. Originally granted to 18th-Century English colonists, indigo first was cultivated there and later it became the seat of a rice empire.

During the American Revolution it was the locale of the Swamp Fox, Francis Marion, and his band of volunteers. William Allston, owner of Brookgreen Plantation, was a captain under Marion and was related to him by marriage. William's son, Washington, a painter of the Romantic Period, was called "The American Titian". The nickname was derived from his use of colors favored by the Renaissance master, Titian. In 1791 Washington's mother and step-father entertained President George Washington at Brookgreen.

Joseph Alston, owner of The Oaks Plantation, married Theodosia, daughter of Aaron Burr, in 1801. Joseph's illustrious political career culminated in his election as Governor of South Carolina in 1812. The tragic story of Theodosia's loss at sea is the basis for Waccamaw Neck legend.

Notable owners of Laurel Hill Plantation were the Weston Family, originally Charleston merchants. The last of this line to own Laurel Hill was Plowden C. J. Weston, a man of great wealth and political background. He was primarily remembered for his benevolence toward all people in the region.

Joshua John Ward's father purchased Brookgreen in the last years of the 18th-Century and he was born there in 1800. The Wards brought Brookgreen to its greatest development during the Antebellum Period when South Carolina was the major rice producing state in the country. The Carolina Golden Big Grain Rice, discovered and cultivated at Brookgreen, brought prime prices at U.S. and European markets. When Joshua John Ward died in 1853, he owned over 1,000 slaves and eight plantations.

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Brookgreen and other area plantations fell into a period of decline. Those former planters who managed to keep their lands did so by adapting to frugal, self-sufficient lifestyles. The Waccamaw Mission was operated by the Hasell, Willett and Flagg families at Brookgreen from 1885 to the mid-1920s. It was comprised of a school, church and hospital to aid area residents.

Brookgreen Plantation during the 1920s was owned by Dr. J. A. Mood whose daughter, Julia Peterkin, wrote of the local black lifestyle. Her landmark novel, *Scarlet Sister Mary*, won a Pulitzer Prize in 1928.

When Archer M. Huntington purchased the property in 1930, Brookgreen, Laurel Hill, Springfield and The Oaks entered a new period of development for the public's perpetual enjoyment and enlightenment.

Brookgreen...

Brookgreen Gardens, founded on July 13, 1931 by Archer and Anna Huntington, is a gracious gift to the people of America. The non-profit organization exists to exhibit and preserve American sculpture and the plants and animals of the region. Over 400 works of art are exhibited on these grounds which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Plantation remnants echo its former glory—moss-strewn live oaks, boxwood, magnolias, camellias—and provide breathtaking showcases for the finest examples of 19th and 20th Century American figurative sculpture.

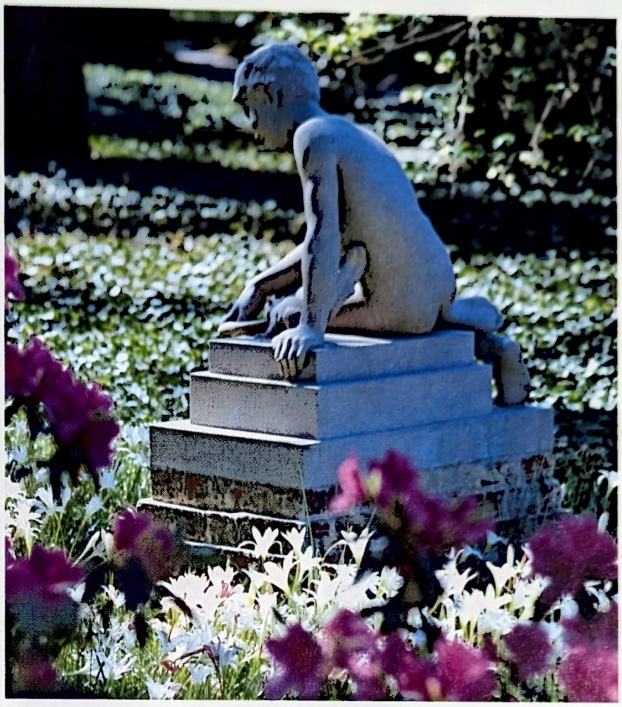
Development began in 1930 when the property was purchased by the Huntingtons. Their original plan was to build a winter home here but, inspired by the overwhelming natural beauty of the site, they decided instead to create a sanctuary for living and growing things. A winding openwork brick wall was constructed to define the grounds. The plan of the garden walks, drawn by Anna Huntington, took the shape of a butterfly with outspread wings. The Gardens provide an appropriate setting for a collection of representative American sculpture which is the largest of its type in the world. Included among the 203 sculptors represented here are the well known Frederic Remington, Daniel Chester French, Carl Milles, Gaston Lachaise and Gutzon Borglum. The careers of many promising sculptors were enhanced by Brookgreen Gardens' acceptance of their works. The collection is enlarged as additional appropriate works are selected.

The landscaped grounds which provide the settings for the sculpture and animal collections include expanses of lawn, reflecting pools, splashing fountains, natural forests and gardens composed of more than 2,000 kinds of plants. Many of these are labeled so the plants will have informative as well as aesthetic value. The perfect simplicity of green foliage against cool white marble exemplifies the cooperative interplay of the plant and sculpture collections. Brookgreen is an expansion of the landscape of the original plantation grounds utilizing some of the old plantings, topographic features and indigenous forests.

BELOW
Long Long Thoughts
by Charles C. Parks

ABOVE
Diana of the Chase
by Anna Hyatt Huntington

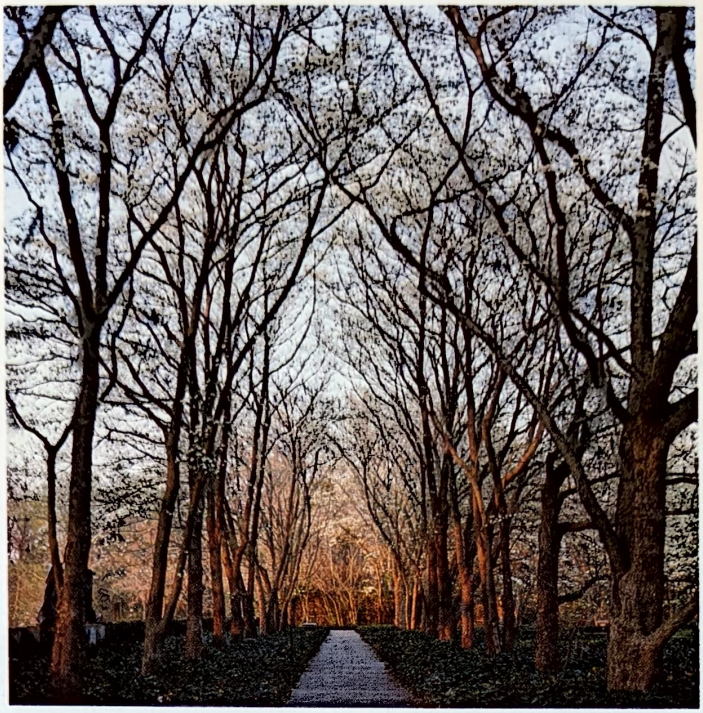
ABOVE
Seascape
by Herbert Adams



Brookgreen Gardens was founded in 1931 by Archer Milton Huntington and his wife, Anna Vaughn Hyatt Huntington. Archer Huntington (1870-1955) was an heir of his father, Collis Potter Huntington, who founded the Central Pacific, Southern Pacific and C&O Railroads, and the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company. Archer's cousin, Henry E. Huntington, founded the Huntington Library and Art Gallery in San Marino, California which has an extensive garden. Anna Hyatt Huntington (1876-1973) was an important American sculptor who is often considered one of the greatest animaliers *of her time. She came from an academic background (her father was a paleontologist at Harvard) and grew up in a simple rural atmosphere. Her sculpture career was firmly established by the time she met Archer Huntington.*

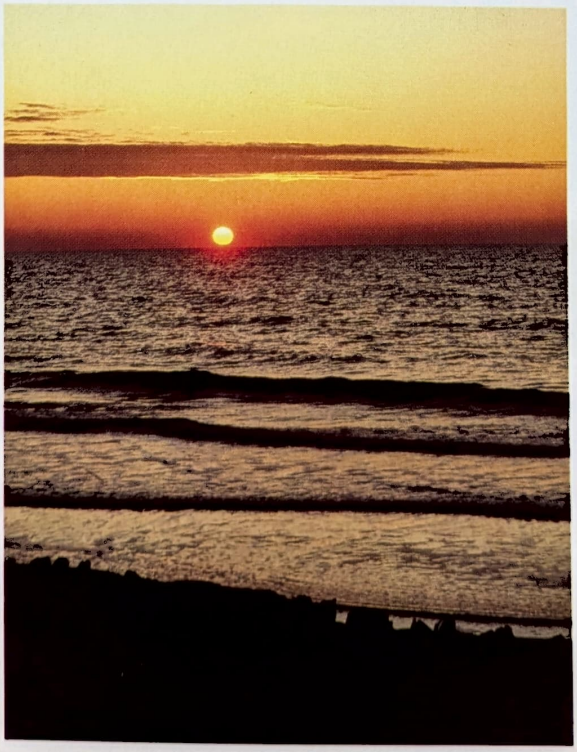
ABOVE
Piedmont azalea

ABOVE
Boy and Squirrel
by Walker Hancock



Dogwood Garden walkway in early spring

The seashore property of Brookgreen Gardens was leased at no charge to the State of South Carolina in 1960. Operated as Huntington Beach State Park, it is made available for the public's use and is a complementary activity to the purposes of Brookgreen Gardens.



Sunrise on the beach

Photo by Dwain Patrick

Crested fringed-orchid, detail

Brookgreen Gardens exhibits American sculpture and the plants and animals of the Southeast. The sculpture collection presently numbers 446 works by 203 sculptors and continues to expand. The plant collection includes approximately 2,000 taxa of native plants and selected exotics. Twenty species of local animals totaling approximately 120 individuals are exhibited in the wildlife park.

LEFT
Forest Idyl
by Albin Polášek

RIGHT
Shark Diver
by Frank Eliscu

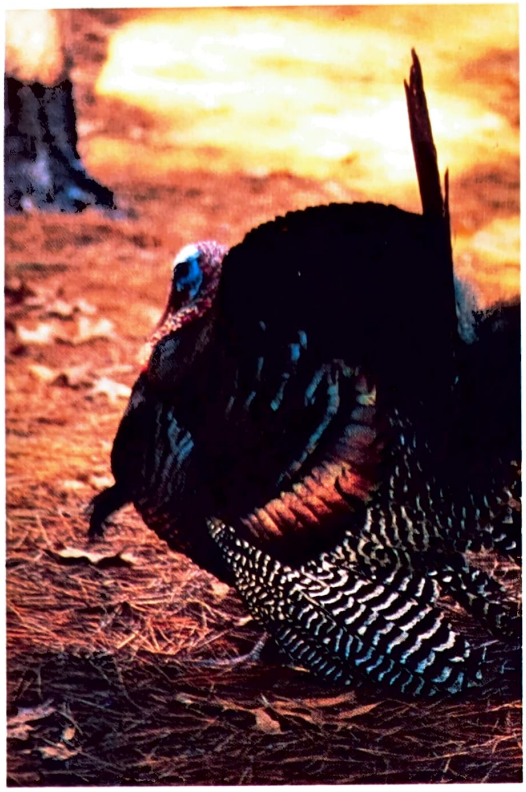
RIGHT
Dawn
by Helen Journeay

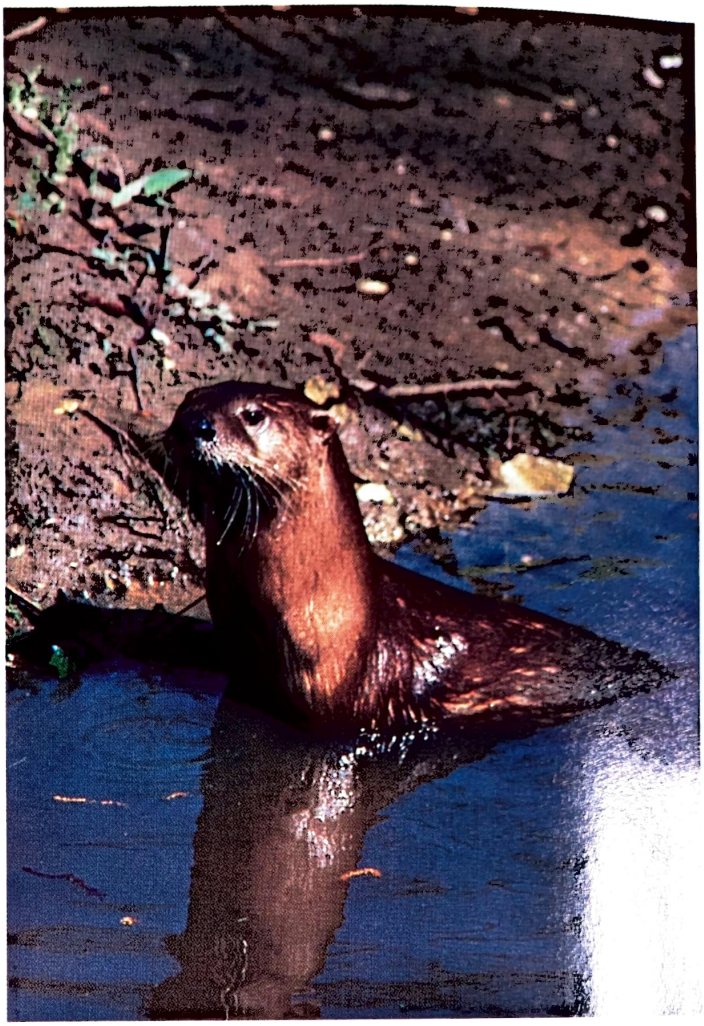
ABOVE
Greyhound Lying Down
by Katharine Lane Weems

RIGHT
Plumleaf azalea

FAR RIGHT
Benediction
by Daniel Chester French

'BENEDICTION'
BRONZE C. 1919
DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH
1850-1931





ABOVE. Wild turkey

RIGHT. River otter

FAR RIGHT. White-tailed deer buck

The wildlife park contains native animals and plants in natural environments. The entire family will enjoy the Cypress Bird Sanctuary, Otter Pond, Alligator Swamp, Fox and Raccoon Glade, and White-tailed Deer Savannah. The mysteries of indigenous plants along with the habits of native animals are revealed during programs and tours scheduled throughout the year.

The total property owned by Brookgreen Gardens is 9,127 acres. About 300 acres, which include the sculpture gardens, wildlife park and connecting landscapes, are developed and open to the public. The remaining acreage is a wildlife sanctuary with protected historic sites which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The wildlife park contains five natural exhibits including the spectacular Cypress Bird Sanctuary which covers half an acre of swamp. The White-tailed Deer Savannah is 23 acres and is the largest exhibit in the park. Brookgreen Gardens receives some animals that have been orphaned and injured, either by hunters or motorists. Many of the animals in the exhibits could not survive in the wild if released. However, a local veterinarian treats all injured animals and those that are capable of survival are returned to the wild.

Photo by Ted Borg

ABOVE
Fountain of the Muses
by Carl Milles

RIGHT
Don Quixote detail
by Anna Hyatt Huntington

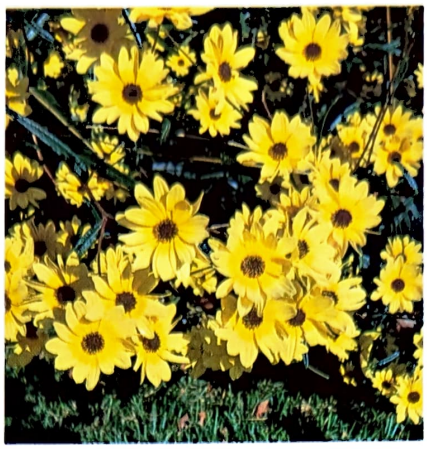
LEFT
Pegasus
by Laura Gardin Fraser

The largest piece of sculpture in the Brookgreen collection is Pegasus, *located in a pool opposite the Fountain of the Muses Garden. It was created by Laura Gardin Fraser and was carved by a stonecarver on that site, requiring four years for completion.*

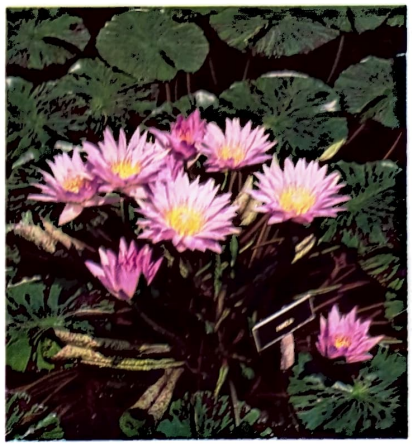
The avenue of trees in the center of the sculpture gardens are the o
the carriage entrance to Brookgreen Plantation

AK ALLÉE

…ks which are native to the coastal region of the Southeast. They lined …ntrance believed to be approximately 225 years old.



Native sunflower



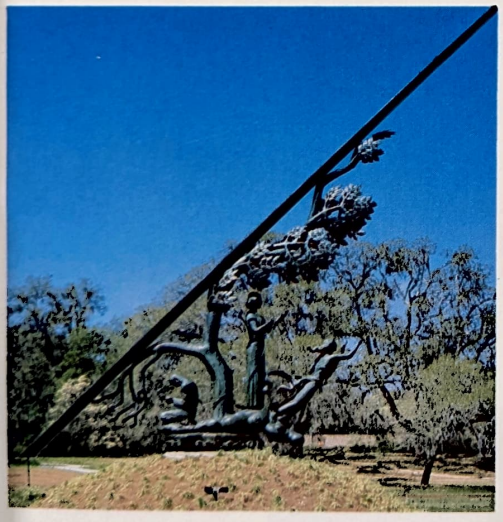
Water-lily

LEFT
Field of moss pinks

Plant collections of special interest include native hollies, oaks, wildflowers and horticultural plants adapted to this region. One of the characteristics of Brookgreen Gardens is the well-planned transition from one landscaped area to the next. While each garden is different, together they mesh into a complementary whole. Each season presents a unique display to stimulate the senses.

BELOW
Indica azalea

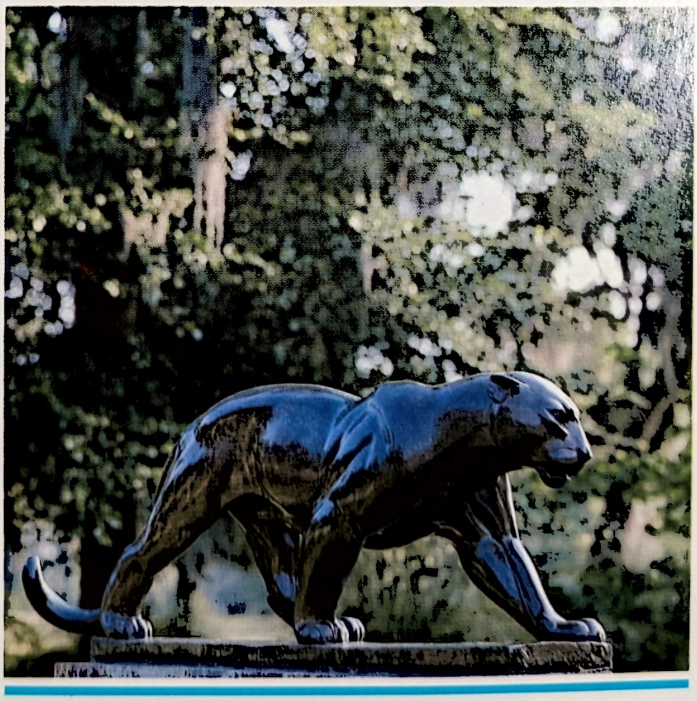
LEFT
Diana
by Paul Manship



Time and the Fates of Man
by Paul Manship

BELOW
Gazelle
by Marshall M. Fredericks

BELOW
Black Panther
by Wheeler Williams



UPPER RIGHT
Young Lamb
by Gertrude Lathrop

LEFT
Dionysus
by Edward McCartan

LOWER RIGHT
Youth Taming the Wild
by Anna Hyatt Huntington

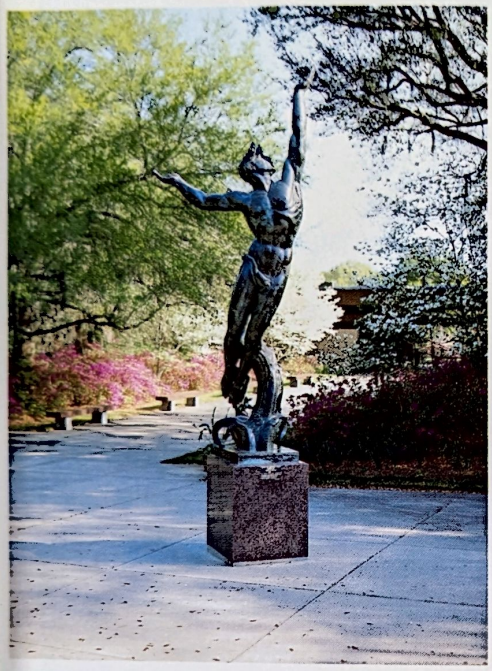
Brookgreen Gardens' property is comprised of five rice plantations: Laurel Hill, Springfield, Brookgreen, The Oaks, and portions of Retreat. Many historically significant people have been connected with the property including Francis Marion (The Swamp Fox), President George Washington, Washington Allston (The American Titian), Dr. Henry Collins Flagg, Governor Joseph Alston, Theodosia Burr Alston, Aaron Burr, Lieutenant Governor Joshua John Ward and Lieutenant Governor Plowden C. J. Weston.

The winter home that the Huntingtons built here while Brookgreen Gardens was developed, is named "Atalaya". The word is Spanish and means "watchtower"; Archer Huntington was a Spanish scholar whose love for things Hispanic was reflected in many of his projects. The Huntingtons wintered in South Carolina until the entry of the United States in World War II. During the war period, Atalaya was occupied by troops from the Myrtle Beach Army Air Field. Targets were set up on boats in the ocean and on the beach for aerial gunnery practice. After peace was declared, the Huntingtons returned to Atalaya in 1946 and 1947.

RIGHT
Spirit of American Youth
by Donald De Lue

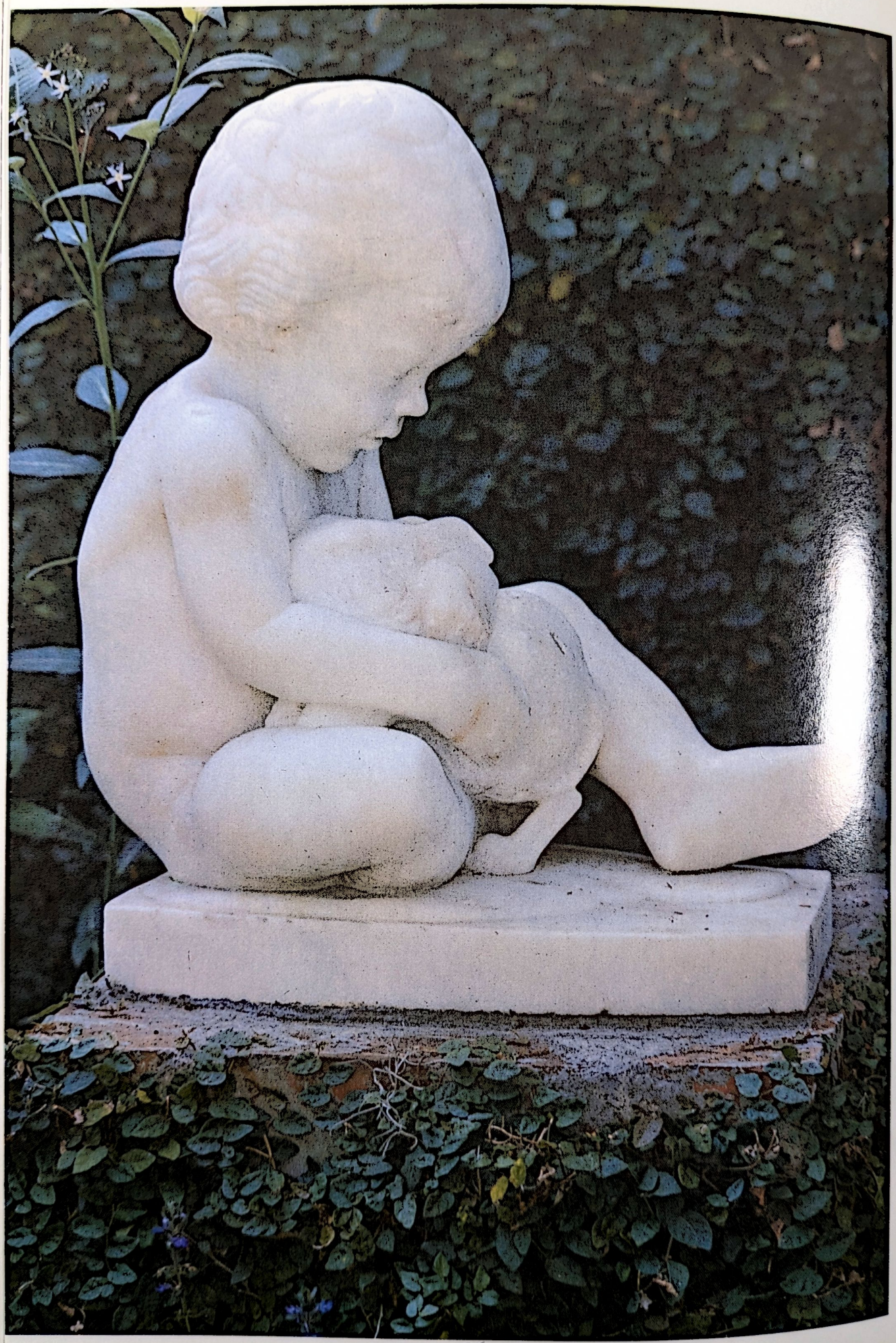
BELOW
Seahorse
by Joseph Kiselewski

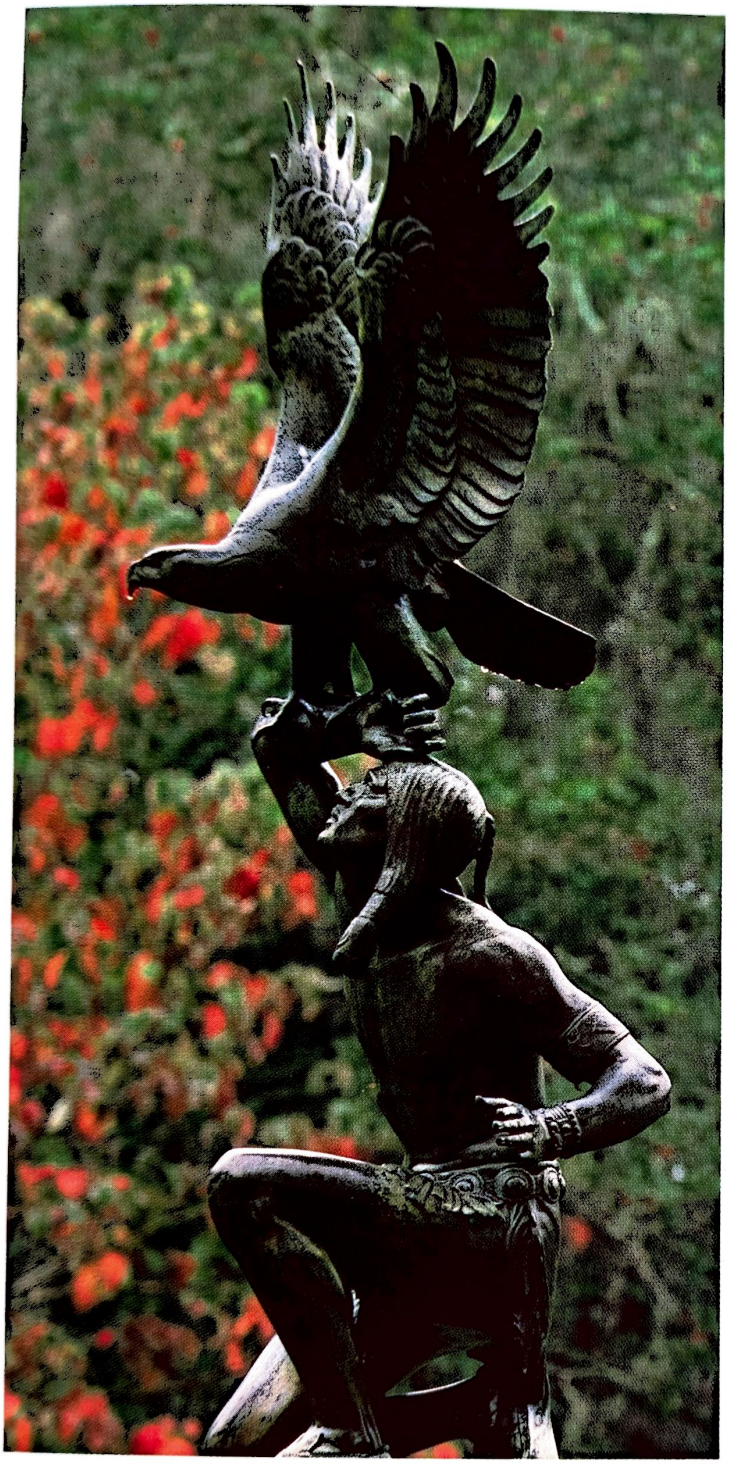
BELOW
Man Carving His Own Destiny
by Albin Polášek



A fine art medal series was inaugurated by Brookgreen Gardens in 1971. Each year the Trustees commission an outstanding American medalist to design the Membership Medal which is distributed to certain categories of membership and presented to prominent individuals. The high quality of this series has been recognized by international organizations specializing in medallic art. The sculptors chosen to design Brookgreen's medals all have been recipients of prestigious awards and honors in this field.

Brookgreen Gardens 1982-83 Membership Medal by Karen Worth





Indian and Eagle
by Carl Paul Jennewein

LEFT
Susan
by Edward Fenno Hoffman, III

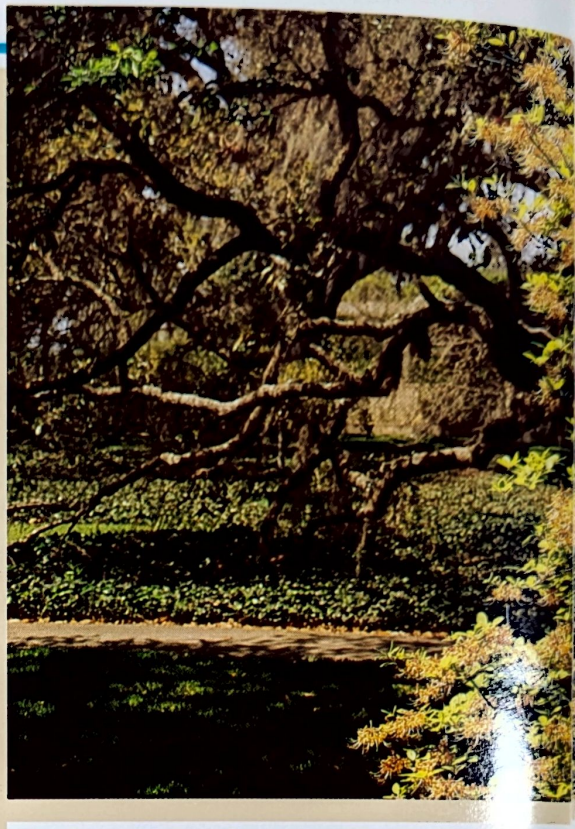
Archer Huntington founded other museums including The Hispanic Society of America in New York City and The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia. He once said, "Wherever I put down my foot, a museum springs up." Numerous fledgling museums and institutions were recipients of his generosity. In many cases his donations, often made anonymously, assured the continuance of organizations despite fluctuations in the economy and public interest.

Toro Bravo
by Charlotte Dunwiddie

ABOVE
Riders of the Dawn
by Adolph Alexander Weinman

Fighting Stallions
by Anna Hyatt Huntington

Brookgreen Then.

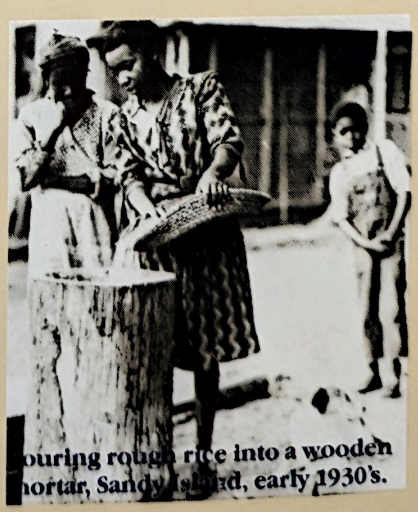


1930 Laurel Hill, Springfield, Brookgreen and The Oaks Plantations purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Archer Milton Huntington for a winter home and to preserve and exhibit American sculpture, native plants and animals. **1931** Brookgreen Gardens, A Society for Southeastern Flora and Fauna, was incorporated on 13 July. **1932** Brookgreen Gardens opened to the public. **1933** Small Sculpture Gallery completed. *Youth Taming the Wild* by Anna Hyatt Huntington transported and placed. **1936** First volume of sculpture catalogue and list of plants published and a zoo featuring a bear pit was built. **1937** Small Sculpture Gallery extended **1938** Deer park constructed at the zoo. **1940** Dogwood Garden construction initiated. **1942** A.A. Weinman is commissioned to create *Riders of the Dawn* for the central pool of the Dogwood Garden. **1943** Publication of large edition, *Brookgreen Gardens Sculpture* by Beatrice Gilman Proske. U.S. Army Air Corps at Atalaya. **1946** *Riders of the Dawn* placed in the Dogwood Garden. Atalaya returned to Brookgreen Gardens by U.S. Army Air Corps. **1950** Palmetto Garden opened to the public. **1951** *Fighting Stallions* by Anna Hyatt Huntington placed at highway entrance. **1952** *Pegasus* by Laura Gardin Fraser set up for carving. **1954** Hurricane Hazel caused destruction that precipitated changes in the property. **1955** Death of Archer Milton Huntington. *Pegasus* completed. *Brookgreen Gardens Sculpture, Volume II*, by Beatrice Gilman Proske

Pounding rice with wooden mortar and pestle, Sandy Island, early 1900's

Photo by Bayard Wootten

published. **1957** Live oaks, hollies and dogwoods planted along entrance drive from the highway. **1959** Corporate office moved from New York City to Brookgreen Gardens. **1960** Beachfront (2,500 acres; 3½ miles of beach) leased to the State of South Carolina as Huntington Beach State Park. **1961** *Man Carving His Own Destiny* given by Albin Polášek and carved in place. **1962** U.S. Highway 17 widened to four lanes and Brookgreen entrance redesigned. **1967** Long-range planning begun. **1968** Brookgreen Gardens enters a period of development; Visitors Pavilion under construction. Initiation of admission fee; brochures are published. Publication of *Brookgreen Gardens Sculpture* (revised edition) by Beatrice Gilman Proske. **1969** Visitors Pavilion completed. **1970** Brookgreen Gardens receives Governor's Travel Cup Award as most outstanding travel attraction in South Carolina. **1971** *In Memory of the Workhorse* by Anna Hyatt Huntington unveiled. *Sancho Panza* by C. Paul Jennewein placed adjacent to *Don Quixote* by Anna Hyatt Huntington. **1972** Initiation of membership program; membership publications. Initiation of nationwide sculpture competition. **1973** Brookgreen Gardens accredited by the American Association of Museums. Death of Anna Hyatt Huntington. **1974** Plant records on file with the American Horticultural Society. Brookgreen Gardens given Tourism Award Plaque by the S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism. New wildlife park plans underway. **1976** Bicentennial observance. Road system redesigned, bike path and pedestrian walkways designated. Deer exhibit relocated to new wildlife



ouring rough rice into a wooden
ortar, Sandy Island, early 1930's.

Photo by Bayard Wootten

park; aviary construction. **1977** Major sculpture gifts from C. Paul Jennewein. Indigenous plant species established in the wildlife park. **1978** Alligator Swamp and Otter Pond constructed in wildlife park. Jennewein Gallery named in memory of C. Paul Jennewein. Perpetual Members Memorial erected. Brookgreen Gardens placed on National Register of Historic Places. **1979** All exhibits moved to new wildlife park and opened to public. Daffodil bloom period along roadsides from January through March. **1980** *Time and the Fates of Man* by Paul Manship acquired and placed. Sculptor's Medal Exhibit donated by Medallic Art Company, Danbury, CT. Vista opened from back of the garden toward Springfield Creek. Horticulture intern program initiated. **1981** 50th Anniversary Celebration; publication of *A Century of American Sculpture: Treasures from Brookgreen Gardens.* Received Herbert Adams Memorial Award from National Sculpture Society for contributions to American Sculpture. Year round public education programs inaugurated. **1982** Received Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Special Award from South Carolina Arts Commission in recognition of Brookgreen Gardens' outstanding contribution toward the arts in the state. Reaccredited by the American Association of Museums; accredited by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums. "Brookgreen Experience" slide program prepared; Education Center under construction. **1983** Education Center opened to the public; education program expanded; volunteer program initiated. Severe winter cold wave and high winds cause damage to plantings. **1984** Fountain of the Muses Garden completed and opened; largest garden expansion since the founding of Brookgreen Gardens. Natural exhibit site for foxes and raccoons prepared. Series of lectures and programs inaugurated. **1985** Several sculptures relocated to new places in the Fountain of the Muses Garden. Plantings recovered from hard winters of 198 and 1984; spectacular displays of annuals, perennials and ornamentals. Fox and Raccoon Glade completed. Brookgreen and Fountain of Muses Garden receives Award for being the most outstanding privately funded attraction in the state for 1984 from the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

Farmer plowing rice field with ox-team, Sandy Island, early 1930's.

Farmer with ox-cart on Sandy Island, early 1930's.

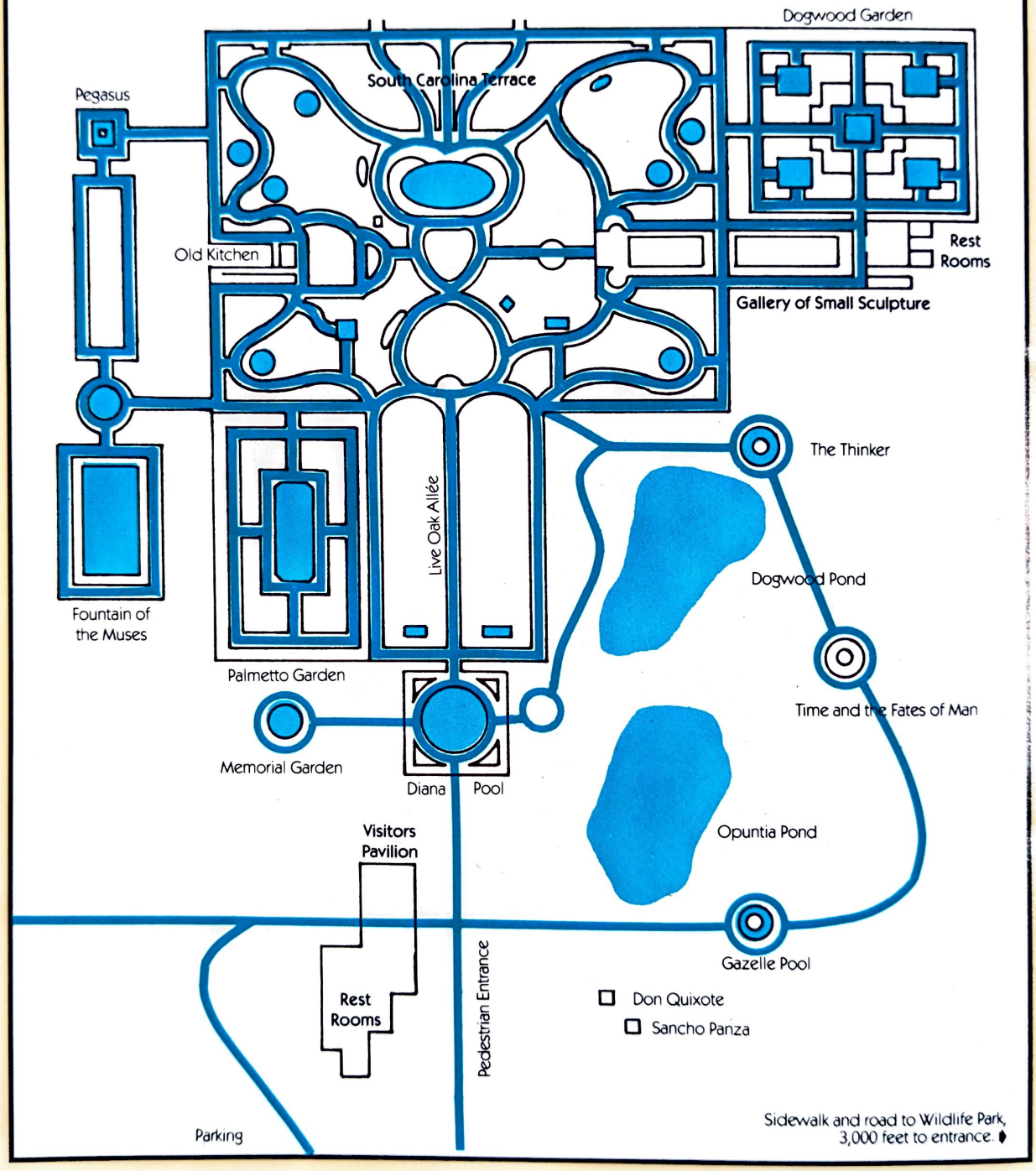
Photo by Bayard Wootten

Archer and Anna Huntington at Sandy Island, early 1930's.

And Tomorrow.

The charm of an old plantation site mingled with the natural beauty of sculpture and native plantings creates a distinctive atmosphere. Brookgreen Gardens is incomparable—peace, tranquility and beauty are its hallmarks.

Brookgreen Sculpture Gardens



BROOKGREEN GARDENS
Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, 29576
(803) 237-4218

©1986 Brookgreen Gardens